



## Specific Recommendations

- 1.1 Congress should adequately fund existing drought preparedness programs such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Technical Assistance Program (Public Law 46) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (16 U.S.C. 3839) and the Bureau of Reclamation's drought planning program (Public Law 102-250, Title II).
- 1.2 The President should direct the Bureau of Reclamation and the Army Corps of Engineers to find an effective way to meet the drought planning needs of those areas not traditionally served by the Bureau of Reclamation. Congress should fund these agencies' efforts to better serve the needs of the eastern part of the country.
- 1.3 The President should direct all appropriate federal agencies to cooperate fully and to provide all assistance possible to encourage development or revision and implementation of comprehensive drought preparedness plans by states, localities, tribes, regional entities such as watershed and river basin organizations, and the private sector. Federal agencies that provide drought planning assistance should consider the elements shown in the box below.
- 1.4 Federal agencies providing drought planning assistance should encourage state, local, regional and tribal planners to use or adapt existing planning materials and resources. These include materials developed by the National Drought Mitigation Center, the Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Western Drought Coordination Council, the states, and urban and rural water districts.
- 1.5 The President should direct all appropriate federal agencies to develop and implement drought management plans for federal facilities such as military bases, federal prisons, and large federal office complexes in the United States. These plans should be coordinated with local and state drought planning and mitigation measures.
- 1.6 The President should direct all appropriate federal agencies to study their programs for potential impacts on drought. Where such potential exists, the agencies need to integrate national drought policy into their programs.
- 1.7 The President should direct federal agencies with water resources management programs to develop and promote comprehensive public awareness efforts as part of an ongoing drought preparedness strategy.

### Common Components of Comprehensive Water Management/Drought Planning

- Analysis of past, current and projected water demand, instream flow needs for appropriate ecosystem protection, water availability, and (from these) potential water shortages.
  - The basis for the design and performance of the plan, including the economic, environmental, social, and cultural goals and objectives of decision makers and the public at large and performance metrics derived from those objectives.
  - Description of how shortages would be met (for example, planting of drought-resistant species, temporary fallowing of land, increased supply, leak detection/elimination, water use efficiency, demand management) and an estimate of associated costs.
  - Description of interagency/ intergovernmental coordination and public participation.
  - Appropriate mitigation of drought impacts on the environment.
  - Monitoring and prediction strategies.
  - Methods for testing the plans.
  - Mechanisms for updating the plans.
  - A decision-making body to oversee and implement the plans.
- The Commission encourages drought planning as a continuing process and part of more comprehensive water management programs.